

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 390, 394 to 400, 402 to 408, 410 and 412 to 417 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 384. (Canceled)

385. (Currently Amended) An information processing image forming apparatus ~~for determining a charge amount~~ for charging a user for printout of output information, the apparatus comprising:

a memory storing a computer program; and

a processor that executes the computer program, the computer program comprising the steps of:

reading obtaining, from an information management unit through a network, output information to be printed out and first value information indicating a charge value of the output information to be printed out ~~and second value information indicating a charge value of additional information to be printed out together with the output information~~, wherein the output information is selected from a plurality of registered output information registered in the information management unit based on a user designation of the ~~output information to be printed out~~, and wherein the additional information is automatically selected from a plurality of registered additional information;

selecting whether or not additional information is to be printed out in addition to the output information to be printed out;

transmitting, to the information management unit through the network, an output format of the additional information which is set by a user, when it is selected in the selecting step to print out the additional information in addition to the output information to be printed out;

receiving, from the information management unit through the network, second value information indicating a charge value of the additional information based on the output format of the additional information;

determining a charge amount for the printout of the output information to be printed out together with the additional information[[,]] based on the first value information ~~of the user-selected output information~~ and the second value information ~~of the automatically-selected additional information~~, when it is selected in the selecting step to print out the additional information in addition to the output information to be printed out, or determining a charge amount for the printout of the output information based on the first value information, when it is not selected in the selecting step to print out the additional information; and

outputting the charge amount determined by said determining step so as to display the charge amount for the printout on a display; and

printing out the output information together with the additional information, which is automatically-selected and transmitted by the information management unit, when

it is selected in the selecting step to print out the additional information in addition to the output information to be printed out.

386. (Currently Amended) An ~~information-processing~~ image forming apparatus according to claim 385, wherein said output information designated by the user contains plural types of output information, and the first value information corresponds with the plural types of output information.

387. (Currently Amended) An ~~information-processing~~ image forming apparatus according to claim 385, wherein said determining step determines the charge amount based on a monetary amount obtained by subtracting from a monetary amount corresponding to the first value information, a monetary amount corresponding to the second value information.

388. (Currently Amended) An ~~information-processing~~ image forming apparatus according to claim 385, wherein said determining step determines the charge amount based on a monetary amount obtained by subtracting, from a monetary amount for executing the printout and a monetary amount corresponding to the first value information, a monetary amount corresponding to the second value information.

389. (Currently Amended) An ~~information-processing~~ image forming apparatus according to claim 387, wherein if the monetary amount obtained after the

subtraction becomes negative, said determining step determines the charge amount for the printout as zero.

390. (Canceled)

391. (Currently Amended) An ~~information processing~~ image forming apparatus according to claim 385, wherein the additional information is advertisement information to be printed out together with the output information.

392. (Currently Amended) An image forming ~~information processing~~ apparatus according to claim 385, wherein said computer program further comprises the steps of:

receiving output information to be registered through [[a]] the network;

issuing output information identification code information corresponding to the registered output information; and

entering, based on the user designation, the output information identification code information indicating the output information to be printed out.

393. (Currently Amended) An ~~information processing~~ image forming method performed by an information processing apparatus for ~~determine a charge amount~~ for charging for a user for printout of output information, the method comprising the steps of:

reading obtaining, from an information management unit through a network, output information to be printed out and first value information indicating a charge value of the output information to be printed out and second value information indicating a charge value of additional information to be printed out together with the output information, wherein the output information is selected from a plurality of registered output information registered in the information management unit based on a user designation of the output information to be printed out, and wherein the additional information is automatically selected from a plurality of registered additional information;

selecting whether or not additional information is to be printed out in addition to the output information to be printed out;

transmitting, to the information management unit through the network, an output format of the additional information which is set by the user, when it is selected in the selecting step to print out the additional information in addition to the output information to be printed out;

receiving, from the information management unit through the network, second value information indicating a charge value of the additional information based on the output format of the additional information;

determining a charge amount for the printout of the output information to be printed out together with the additional information[[,]] based on the first value information of the user-selected output information and the second value information of the automatically-selected additional information, when it is selected in the selecting step to print out the additional information in addition to the output information to be printed

out, or determining a charge amount for the printout of the output information based on the first value information, when it is not selected in the selecting step to print out the additional information; and

outputting the charge amount determined in said determining step so as to display the charge amount for the printout on a display; and

printing out the output information together with the additional information, which is automatically-selected and transmitted by the information management unit, when it is selected in the selecting step to print out the additional information in addition to the output information to be printed out.

394. to 400. (Canceled)

401. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable ~~memory storage~~ medium storing an ~~information processing~~ image forming program for controlling an information processing apparatus to ~~determine a charge a user amount~~ for printout of output information, the program comprising the steps of:

reading obtaining, from an information management unit via a network, the output information to be printed out and first value information indicating a charge value of the output information to be printed out ~~and second value information indicating a charge value of additional information to be printed out together with the output~~ information, wherein the output information is selected from a plurality of registered output information registered in the information management unit based on a user

designation; and wherein the additional information is automatically selected from a plurality of registered additional information;

selecting whether or not additional information is to be printed out in addition to the output information to be printed out;

transmitting, to the information management unit via the network, an output format of the additional information which is set by the user, when it is selected in the selecting step to print out the additional information in addition to the output information to be printed out;

receiving, from the information management unit through the network, second value information indicating a charge value of the additional information based on the output format of the additional information;

determining a charge amount for the printout of the output information to be printed out together with the additional information[[,]] based on the first value information ~~of the user-selected output information~~ and the second value information ~~of the automatically-selected additional information~~, when it is selected in the selecting step to print out the additional information in addition to the output information to be printed out, or determining a charge amount for the printout of the output information based on the first value information, when it is not selected in the selecting step to print out the additional information; and

outputting the charge amount determined by said determining step so as to display the charge amount for the printout on a display; and

printing out the output information together with the additional information, which is automatically-selected and transmitted by the information management unit, when it is selected in the selecting step to print out the additional information in addition to the output information to be printed out.

402. to 408. (Canceled)

409. (Currently Amended) An image forming ~~information-processing~~ apparatus according to Claim 392, wherein said computer program further comprises the steps of:

receiving additional information to be registered through [[a]] the network;
storing the received additional information in a database; and
automatically selecting the additional information to be printed out together with the output information from the database in response to entry of the output information identification code information.

410. (Currently Amended)

411. (Currently Amended) An ~~information-processing~~ image forming apparatus according to Claim 385, wherein the additional information has attributes including a print effective date, a position within the printout at which the additional information is to be printed, or a print size.

412. to 417. (Canceled)